

**Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation**  
**Division of Solid Waste Management**

**Special Waste Criteria for Class I Landfill Disposal  
of Domestic Birds Infected by Avian Influenza**

Avian Influenza (AI) is an infection of birds by the naturally occurring influenza Type A viruses, which are classified into low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The HPAI viruses can cause severe disease with high mortality in certain domestic bird species, including chickens, ducks, and turkeys. Due to Tennessee's position in the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways the state may be susceptible to the spread of AI through migratory birds. The purpose of this document is to pre-establish special waste criteria for the acceptance of domestic birds infected with AI for disposal at Class I landfills. These criteria are more extensive than the dead animal management practices outlined in Tennessee Rule 0400-11-01-.04(5)(ii) due to the biosecurity needs of the waste. Besides the standardized special waste criteria listed below, the Division of Solid Waste Management (Division) may create additional landfill specific requirements to the special waste approval. The criteria for a Class I landfill to accept domestic birds infected by AI for disposal are listed below.

**Special Waste Criteria for Acceptance of Domestic Birds Infected by AI**

1. The disposal area must be segregated from other ongoing landfill operations. Identify a disposal area that is strategically sited to the interior of the landfill (minimum 50 feet from exterior side slopes) over existing buried waste, such that any liquids will have to pass through a minimum of forty (40) feet of waste material before reaching the leachate collection system.
2. Implement wild bird control operations and prevent scavenging animals from gaining access to the carcass waste.
3. Excavate a trench (or multiple trenches) into the existing solid waste large enough for trucks to drive down into. The excavated solid waste shall be staged adjacent to the area designated for dumping.
4. Trucks transporting AI waste for disposal are to immediately off-load their waste in the defined disposal area. This can be done simultaneously if there are multiple trucks.
5. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires all AI waste transported off-site for disposal be in leak-proof containment(s). Off-loading of leak-proof containment bags shall be done in a manner that best keeps the containment bags intact.
6. All active trenches shall be covered with at least two (2) feet of excavated trash at the end of the dumping sequence in addition to normal cover requirements.

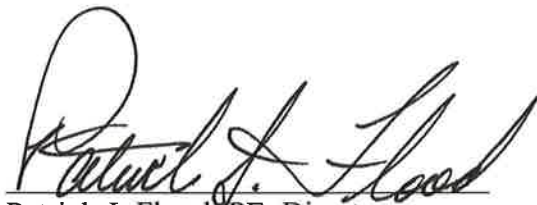
## Guidance for Biosecurity

In addition to the Division guidelines for disposal, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) guidance and biosecurity requirements for transportation of waste to the landfill, the disinfection of equipment, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be met (see guidance document below).

- *Biosecurity: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Standard Operating Procedures* by the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency

Additional guidance can be found here:

- *Disposal of Domestic Birds Infected by Avian Influenza – An Overview of Considerations and Options* (August 11, 2006) by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (<http://www.epa.gov/wastes/inforesources/pubs/flu.pdf>)
- *The Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan (FAD PReP) Standard Operating Procedures* (January 2014) by U.S. Department of Agriculture ([http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/emergency\\_management/downloads/sop/sop\\_disposal.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/sop/sop_disposal.pdf))



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